



Joseph J. Haydon Jr.

Joseph Jolly Haydon Jr., 40, a U.S. Army Special Forces major and Foreign Area Officer specializing in Sub-Sahara Africa, died in an aircraft crash near Lagos, Nigeria, Saturday, Oct. 22, 2005.

Maj. Haydon was the head of the Office of Defense Cooperation, U.S. Mission, Abuja, Nigeria, and was returning from a meeting in Germany at the time of his death. In this position, he was responsible for defense matters between the U.S. and Nigerian military. He was widely recognized by his compatriots as an authority on Africa and was also responsible for significant civil works projects benefiting the Nigerian people.

Maj. Haydon was born at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Ala., and, as a member of a military family, lived at numerous Army posts to include Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands; and West Point, N.Y. He was a 1983 graduate of Oakton High School in Vienna and graduated in 1987 from The Citadel in Charleston, S.C. Following his Citadel graduation, he was commissioned in the Army and served in a tank battalion in Germany before joining the Special Forces in 1992. Maj. Haydon also earned a Master's Degree in Military Studies from American Military University, Manassas, in 2000.

Throughout his Army career, Maj. Haydon and his family lived an adventurous life. He ran with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain, rafted the white waters of the Zambezi River in Africa, and actually went to Timbuktu. As a family, they traveled extensively on their own throughout western and eastern Europe, Asia Minor and the Balkans, the Middle East, the Far East and Africa. Joe and his wife, "Macus," of Vigo, Spain, truly loved being part of an international community and they were raising their children to appreciate both their Spanish and American heritage. His death is being mourned by friends, family and associates around the world.

Survivors include his wife, Maria Jesus Alonso Haydon of Abuja; two children, Forrest Alonso Haydon, 7, and Carmela Alonso Haydon, 6, also of Abuja; his parents, Joe and Coreen Haydon of Fredericksburg; a brother, Dr. Rex Haydon of Chicago; and a sister, Coreen Haydon Jamison of Boston.

Funeral services will be held at a later date.

An education fund has been established for the two children. Contributions to this fund may be sent to Joseph J. Haydon Jr. Children's Trust, Fidelity Investments, 82 Devonshire St. R6C, Attn: Carol Bourgette, Boston, Mass. 02109.